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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 01613 221937 Z

70
ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AGR-20 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 SAL-01 SS-14 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 IGA-02

CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 L-03 COME-00 TRSE-00 RSR-01

/123 W
---------- 124923
R 221914 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6921

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E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS EAGR/ EAID
SUBJ: PL 480 TITLE I WHEAT

VISIT BY MEAD HAS PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR EMBASSY ONCE AGAIN TO REVIEW WHEAT SITUATION WITH GOB OFFICIALS. AS RESULT OF THESE DISCUSSIONS, EMBASSY BELIEVES USG SHOULD MAKE MODEST OFFER TO BRAZIL IN RESPONSE TO ITS NOVEMBER 1 REQUEST FOR 500,000 TONS OF WHEAT UNDER TITLE I, PL 480 FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

1. BRAZIL HISTORICALLY IS THE LARGEST WHEAT MARKET IN LATIN AMERICA AND IS A MAJOR PURCHASER OF US WHEAT.

2. BRAZIL HAS BEEN TRADITIONAL PL 480 RECIPIENT WITH EXCEPTION OF LAST YEAR: ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON WE ASKED BRAZILIANS IF THEY HAD INTEREST IN PL 480 AGREEMENT. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD HAVE ADVERSE REPERCUSSIONS TO TURN DOWN BRAZILIAN REQUEST COMPLETELY AFTER WE HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST, SOLICITED A RESPONSE, AND KEEP THEM WAITING SO MANY MONTHS FOR REPLY.

3. BRAZILIANS ESTIMATE, AND WE AGREE, THAT THEY WILL PROBABLY NEED SIX MILLION TONS OF WHEAT IN 1980 FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION REQUIREMENTS. LOCAL PRODUCTION WILL PROVIDE LESS THAN HALF THIS AMOUNT. IF WE MAKE A MODEST WHEAT OFFER IN RESPONSE TO THEIR
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REQUEST IT WOULD HELP US PRESERVE OUR LARGE TRADITIONAL MARKET SHARE.
WE ARE NOT SUGGESTING SPECIFIC TONNAGES THAT WE SHOULD OFFER BRAZIL BECAUSE WE REALIZE THAT THERE ARE PROBLEMS ON AVAILABILITY OF WHEAT AND THERE ARE LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY THE PL 480 BUDGET. WE BELIEVE HOWEVER, THAT WE CAN AND SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE A MODEST OFFER TO THE BRAZILIANS.
IN VIEW OF THE EXTENDED PERIOD THAT WE HAVE ALREADY DEVOTED TO CONSIDERATION OF THE BRAZILIAN REQUEST, WE ALSO URGE THAT AN EARLY DECISION BE MADE.
ROUNTREE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Remarks:
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